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BOOK REVIEWS

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The Philippines. By CHARLES B. ELLIOTT. Two volumes, I, *To the End of the Military Régime*; II, *To the End of the Commission Government.* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company. 1916-1917. Pp. 541, 541.)

Judge Elliott has rendered a service to the American public and to the Philippine people by presenting the first adequate picture of the Philippines after nearly twenty years of American rule. The author's period of activity and residence in the islands, as judge of the supreme court (1909-1910) and as secretary of commerce and police (1910-1913), has given him excellent preparation for a study of the policies and accomplishments of our rule in the Philippines. The first volume is prefaced by a terse and appropriate introduction by Hon. Elihu Root in which the fact is emphasized that all discussion of the morals of our occupation of the Philippines is academic; we are confronted with a situation and a problem the solution of which is impossible without intelligence and information on the part of the American people. That is what Judge Elliott aims to give.

Approximately one half of the first volume is devoted to pre-American conditions to serve as a background for an understanding of the present. An effort is made to fit our experiment in the Philippines into the general field of colonization by comparing it with efforts made along the same lines by the Dutch, Germans and British. Our avowed intention there is to fit an uncivilized and tropical people for self-government, and to govern the colony in accordance with its best interests and not primarily our own. This was a departure from accepted theories, inviting criticism and ridicule, but Judge Elliott feels that we have succeeded, through a happy combination of "England's sense of justice" and our own natural "political magnanimity." The chapters on geologic, climatic and racial conditions are instructive and readable. While the general sense of the historical sections of this first volume may be regarded as adequate, since they show the results so

well of three hundred years of Spanish training, the author falls into the rut formed by the unappreciative and uninstructed British and American "snap-judgment" historians of Spanish colonization by terming this "a period of stagnation." The difference between the Christian Filipino in religion, morals and civilization, and his Malay brother to the south is due only to Spanish influence exerted through these "centuries of stagnation." The author himself points out that the Filipinos are really Latin in their civilization and modes of thought, and that with our twenty years of vigorous and efficient rule we have only scratched the surface.

A large number of inaccuracies occur in the author's treatment of the Spanish period. The Council of the Indies (not Indias) was founded in 1511 and not in 1514. Governors of the Philippines were not always compelled to remain for *residencia*. The *Obras Pias* were not founded by "the contribution of an enterprising governor-general (Arandía, 1759) who had managed, out of a small salary during a five-year term of office, to save a quarter of a million pesos," which he turned over to the priests. The first *Obra Pia*, that of the Santa Misericordia, was brought to the Philippines in 1596, and another, San Juan de Dios, was established there twenty-one years later. Again, our author credits Governor Enrile with the foundation of the Philippine Economic Society in about 1830, when, as a matter of fact, Enrile merely revived the association, which had been established by Governor Basco y Vargas in 1780. It is regrettable that the author placed reliance in the historical portion of his book on the notoriously inaccurate Foreman, who knew no history.

In the remaining part of this volume the author deals adequately with the historical events surrounding the American conquest, the Philippine insurrection and the establishment of American rule, adding nothing to the accounts already published by Leroy and Worcester. Mr. Bryan and the so-called anti-imperialist forces of 1900 are charged with responsibility for the undue prolongation of the Philippine-American war. Their encouragement is said to have led Filipino politicians and "generals" to form an entirely wrong conception of their own importance and of the attitude of the people of the United States on the Philippine question. This leads to the comment that the American people have never had any attitude on this subject, other than that of almost universal ignorance, which is not appropriate for the citizens of a democracy, although it be also mistress of an empire.

The second volume brings the history of the Philippines down to

1915. Here our author is in his own field, describing as he does the events in which he himself has participated so ably. We are treated to a clear-cut exposition and description of the present government of the Philippines, the religious, insular, provincial and municipal organizations and their interrelations; questions of finance, trade, agriculture, labor, are discussed; and we are given some conception of the extensive work of our government in the direction of public works, harbor improvements, commerce, education, sanitation, and the reclamation of the wild tribes. This work was in full progress in 1914, when some political changes were effected on the basis of national issues. Judge Elliott feels that these changes have been entirely inconsistent with our original purposes in the Philippines, which presuppose a sufficient length of time for the education and uplift of the Filipino people. These changes have interrupted and stayed the work, which in reality is only initiated and will require time for full fruition. What we need is a settled policy with regard to the Philippines. They should be put beyond the reach of politics. The Filipino people are not yet ready for independence, political, moral or economic; and the measures enacted during the past few years have not been the result of proper reflection, knowledge, understanding or sympathy with our great aim in the archipelago. Notwithstanding the sharply critical spirit of this volume, as a piece of informative literature, palpitating with earnestness and abounding in data, it is the best thing yet written on our colonial activities in the Far East. It is more than that; it is a book with a mission.

It is unfortunate that the author has carelessly or unwittingly permitted so many errors and inconsistencies in the use of Spanish names and words to creep into the text. It would almost seem that he deliberately tried to waive all correct usage in Spanish. It would be wearisome to mention all of the 62 mistakes of this kind counted in the first volume, but a few of the most glaring follow in the order of their occurrence: *encomendadors* (37) for *encomenderos*, which word is correctly used subsequently; *politicos* for *políticos* (60) indicating that our author makes no use of accents in words requiring them; Cotabato is spelled Cotabatu (66) and Cottabatu (468) in volume I and Cotabato in volume II (443); Mariveles is spelled Maravales (71) and Marivales (162); Santo Tomás is Santa Tomás (72), thereby making St. Thomas a female saint; Agusan is Aguson (91); Martin de Rada, properly spelled on page 102 becomes Martin de Roda two pages farther on. El Cano, the successor of Magellan, is designated as El Caño (145);

while Emelio Aguinaldo is given the Christian name of his female cousin Emelia (203). These errors are typical in an added sense of showing how studiously Americans avoid a correct knowledge of the language of the colony or foreign country in which they reside. Herein is one of our great weaknesses.

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The Danish West Indies. By WALDEMAR WESTERGAARD. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xxiv, 359.)

If the importance of the Danish West Indies were measured by their few square miles and some thirty thousand inhabitants, to give an entire volume, or as the author proposes, three volumes, to their history would be to exaggerate their importance. Mr. Westergaard feels that his study is justified because it gives a picture in miniature which portrays influences determining colonial development of importance throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

Except for one chapter, Mr. Westergaard devotes his attention to the history of the eighty-four years during which the islands were managed by the Danish West India Company. The sources used are found chiefly in the Bancroft collection and in the Danish royal archives which have been almost entirely neglected by scholars. The author has made careful and effective use of his material. Since the community examined was so minute he has been able to picture its development in great detail.

The life of the islands has centered about three lines of activity: trade and plantation enterprises, which the author points out have too often been treated as if they were synonymous, and the slave trade. The story presents many elements familiar to the student of the history of colonization and particularly of colonization in the American tropics. The Danish experience with ex-criminal colonists, indentured servants, absentee landlords, African slaves, pirates and contraband trade, all claim attention. The trials of the company and its stockholders, due to corrupt officials, hurricanes, droughts, and negro insurrections; the disputes of the planters with the authorities over direct taxes and customs; unfortunate experiments at coöperation with a company of Brandenburgers; the mutterings of the disgruntled settlers because of their desire for a share in their own government: all are interestingly discussed. Among the most valuable chapters